

Message Text

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16

ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 EA-13 EUR-10 SNM-02 OMB-01

DEAE-00 HEW-01 TRSE-00 L-02 AGR-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSCE-00 NSC-10 AID-10 SCI-03 IGA-01

JUSE-00 SY-02 DRC-01 ARA-10 AF-04 PRS-01 USIA-04 /114 W

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P R 120820Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2754

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1068

LIMDIS

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJECT: TURK REACTION TO USG VIEWS OF OPIATE SUPPLY SITUATION:

CND AGENDA ITEM NINE

REF: STATE 026073

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SUMMARY: SENIOR TURK MFA OFFICIAL, TO WHO WE PRESENTED
USG POSITION ON CND OPIUM ITEM, WAS DEEPLY TROUBLED BY IT
AND, AMONG OTHER PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS, SAID THAT IT INEVITABLY
WOULD CAUSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN US-TURKISH RELATIONS.
END SUMMARY.

1. ON FEBRUARY 11, POL COUNSELOR DRAPER AND SPECIAL
ASSISTANT ELLSON CONVEYED DETAILS OF USG POSITION ON CND
OPIUM ITEM (PARAS ONE THROUGH FOUR OF REFTTEL) TO SOYLEMEZ,
HEAD OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPART-
MENT. WE SPENT MOST OF AN HOUR CAREFULLY GOING OVER ALL
POINTS UNTIL SOYLEMEZ SENSED HE UNDERSTOOD USG POSITION.
AT CONCLUSION, SOYLEMEZ, OBVIOUSLY DEEPLY TROUBLED, SAID
THAT THIS POSITION MIGHT BE A WHOLLY REASONABLE INTERNATIONAL
SOLUTION FROM THE USG STANDPOINT, BUT THAT IT OVERLAPPED WITH
AND DID NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE TURKISH SITUATION AND THE
HISTORY OF US-TURKISH DEALINGS ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. STRESSING THAT HIS REMARKS WERE STRICTLY PERSONAL AND
UNOFFICIAL, HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE USG POSITION WOULD BE
"DYNAMITE" IN TURKEY AND THAT WHEN IT CAME TO PUBLIC
ATTENTION, AS HE ASSUMED IT WOULD BECAUSE OF THE GENEVA
MEETINGS, IT WOULD MAKE BIG HEADLINES IN EVERY NEWSPAPER
IN TURKEY. HE SAID GRAVELY THAT IT WOULD INEVITABLY CAUSE
SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN US-TURKISH RELATIONS.

3. HE ASKED HOW THIS POSITION COULD BE EXPLAINED TO THE TURK
PUBLIC AT A TIME WHEN AGITATION FOR A LIFTING OF THE OPIUM
PLANTING BAN WAS SO STRONG. HOW COULD IT BE EXPLAINED TO
TURK PUBLIC THAT THE USG HAD INFLUENCED TURKEY TO QUIT OPIUM
PLANTING TWO YEARS AGO AND NOW BELIEVES THERE IS A DEVELOPING
SHORTAGE WHICH IN EFFECT WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN CARE OF BY
EXPANDED INDIAN PRODUCTION. HE NOTED THAT TURKS WOULD
NEVER ACCEPT ARGUMENT THAT INDIAN ACREAGE WOULD
NOT BE INCREASED.

4. WE RESPONDED THAT WE STILL THOUGHT THE BEST ANSWER TO
THESE KINDS OF QUESTIONS WAS THE ACTUAL ONE: THAT TURKEY HAD
BANNED POPPY CULTIVATION BECAUSE IT HAD DECIDED IT COULD NOT
ADEQUATELY CONTROL OR PREVENT DIVERSION AND THUS COULD NOT
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SATISFY ITS TREATY OBLIGATIONS. SOYLEMEZ SAID HE AGREED WITH
THIS ARGUMENT, BUT ADDED IT WOULD BE HARD TO STICK TO SUCH AN
ARGUMENT WITH THE TURK PUBLIC ONCE IT GOT WIND OF THESE LATEST
DEVELOPMENTS.

5. WE ASKED SOYLEMEZ, IF THE PROGRAM WE WERE PROPOSING
RECEIVED BROAD INTERNATIONAL ENDORSEMENT, WOULD IT NOT BE
HELPFUL TO TURK GOVERNMENT. IN RESPONSE SOYLEMEZ SIMPLY

SHOOK HIS HEAD SADLY. HE SAID THAT HE WAS TRYING TO MAKE LOGIC OUT OF THE USG POSITION BUT THAT EVEN IF IT WERE COMPLETELY LOGICAL IN ALL RESPECTS, IT COULD NOT BE SO IN TURKEY WHERE EMOTION AND INTERNAL POLITICS ENTERED THE SITUATION.

6. WE STRESSED THAT THE USG HAD DEVELOPED THIS POSITION IN THE FACE OF WORLD REALITIES AND IN THE EXPECTATION THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES WANT TO RETURN TO THE STATUS QUO ANTE, WITH ALL THE PROBLEMS THAT WOULD PRESENT. SOYLEMEZ AGREED THAT TURKEY WOULD NOT WANT TO GO BACK TO THE PRE-1971 SITUATION BUT, IN HIS PERSONAL OPINION, HE THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT THIS USG POSITION WOULD STIMULATE PROPOSALS FOR EXAMPLE FOR TURKEY TO BENEFIT FROM THE STRAW TECHNOLOGY IN SPECIALLY CONTROLLED CULTIVATION, AND USE WHATEVER PROFITS THAT WERE DEVELOPED TO ASSIST THE FORMER POPPY FARMERS.

7. WE NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT FONMIN GUNES IN RECENT NEWSPAPER INTERVIEWS HAD INDICATED HE WANTED TO OPEN A DIALOGUE WITH THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR ON OPIUM. THE AMBASSADOR, WE ADDED, WAS PREPARED TO GO INTO ALL ASPECTS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THIS ISSUE IN MUCH GREATER DETAIL THAN WE HAD SO FAR SUPPLIED. SOYLEMEZ SAID THAT OUR PRESENTATION WAS THE FIRST HE HAD RECEIVED ABOUT THE LATEST USG POSITION AND THAT THE PROMISED POUCHED REPORT FROM AMBASSADOR KIRCA IN GENEVA HAD NOT YET ARRIVED. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY PREPARE A REPORT FOR FONMIN GUNES AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS ON BASIS OF OUR BRIEFING. WE NOTED THAT THE AMBASSADOR WOULD BE HAVING A TOUR D'HORIZON MEETING WITH THE FONMINISTER ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13. SOYLEMEZ SAID THAT WE COULD BE SURE THE FONMIN WOULD BE FULLY BRIEFED ON THIS LATEST USG POSITION BEFORE THE AMBASSADOR'S ARRIVAL.

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